

***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 28 March 2001 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. The application file does not contain a signed list of references for this statement. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner. A copy of the signed list of references is attached to this Office action.

**REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art is Langer et al. (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA Vol. 78, pages 6633-6637 (1981), cited in the Information Disclosure Statement received 28 September 1995. A copy of Langer et al. has been scanned into the application file at the time of this Office action. Langer et al. does not show the process of labeling a polynucleotide by binding a non-radioactively labeled protein to the polynucleotide of independent claims 1411 and 1706. Langer et al. does not show the structures of the labeled polynucleotides used in the processes of independent claims 1473-1476, 1705, and 1707-1711. Langer et al. shows biotinylated polynucleotides, and radioactive detection of biotinylated polynucleotides, but does not show non-radioactive detection of non-radioactively labeled polynucleotide hybrids as in independent claim 1785, or further resolving the hybrids in a gel before non-radioactive detection of the hybrids as in independent claim 1712. Langer et al. does not show non-radioactive detection of nuclease treated non-radioactively labeled nuclease treated polynucleotide hybrids as in independent claim 1784.

Art Unit: 1631

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN S. BRUSCA whose telephone number is (571)272-0714. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marjorie A. Moran can be reached on 571-272-0720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1631

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JOHN S BRUSCA/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1631

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